

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7, 12 and 16-19 are pending in this application.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 12 and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-A-5-181403 (hereinafter "JP '403"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP '403 would not have rendered obvious a manufacturing method for manufacturing a multilayer film optical member comprising a first radiation step in which ultraviolet light beams... are radiated onto the UV-curable liquid crystal through the pair of transparent substrates from two sides of the UV-curable liquid crystal, and... in the first radiation step, an angle of incidence of light radiated onto the UV-curable liquid crystal is adjustable, as recited in independent claims 1, 2, 16 and 18.

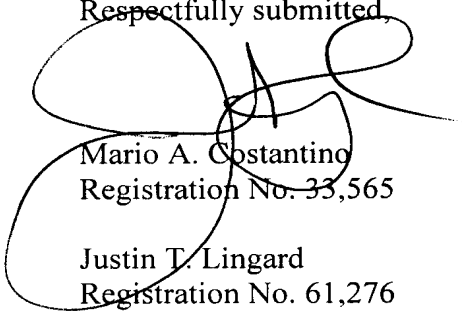
In JP '403 light is only radiated from one side so as to form a layer structure with layers that are oriented differently from each other by 90 degrees (see paragraph [0035] of the machine-generated translation). By irradiating light only from one side, JP '403 cannot adjust the layer thickness. In contrast, the claimed method radiates ultraviolet light beams from two sides of the UV-curable liquid crystal. In so doing, the layer thickness of the UV-curable liquid crystal can be adjusted (see, for example, Fig. 6 and paragraph [0025] of Applicant's specification). The Office Action alleges that "[i]f it is known that the optical properties can be varied by changing the angle, then one of ordinary skill would have known to make the angle adjustable to make optical elements of different properties" (see page 2 of the Office Action). However, as discussed above, the effect of irradiating from two sides of the UV-curable crystal is to adjust the thickness of the resulting layer, whereas the effect of JP '403 is to produce layers that are oriented differently from each other by 90 degrees. Because these effects are completely different, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have predictably modified JP '403 in the manner proposed by the Office Action to result in the claim features.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 2, 16 and 18, and their respective dependent claims, are patentable over JP '403. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7, 12, and 16-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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